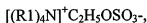


LISTING OF CLAIMSListing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for producing expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles comprising steps of:

impregnating styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles with an easily volatile blowing agent to obtain expandable resin particles, and

impregnating 100 parts by weight of the expandable resin particles with 0.1 to 2.0 parts by weight of a surfactant at a temperature of 10 to 30°C and an internal pressure of 0.05 to 0.30 MPa, to obtain expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula (1):



and R1 is the same or different, and optionally branched alkyl group of a carbon number of 1 to 17;

where the styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles comprise a polyolefin-based resin and a polystyrene-based resin, the polyolefin-based resin being selected from a low-density polyethylene, a medium-density polyethylene, a high-density polyethylene, a linear low-density polyethylene, an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, a polypropylene, a propylene-ethylene copolymer, and a propylene-1-butene copolymer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is dissolved in an aqueous medium.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is a cationic surfactant.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is liquid at a temperature of 10 to 30°C.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for producing pre-expanded particles comprising step of:

pre-expanding the expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin particles obtained by the method of claim 1 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.01 to 0.10 MPa, to obtain pre-expanded particles.

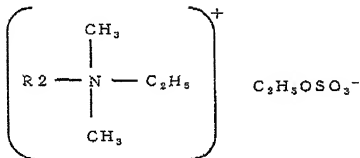
6. (Previously Presented) A method for producing expanded molded particles comprising step of:

expanding-molding the pre-expanded particles obtained by the method of claim 5 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.05 to 0.15 MPa, to obtain an expanded molded article.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant has a total number of carbon atoms of least 5.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula:



wherein R₂ is a straight or branched alkyl group having a carbon number of 5 to 20.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for producing expandable particles of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is added to give an antistatic effect to the expandable particles.